

Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among California women. In 2006, 22,070 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and 4,165 women will die of the disease.¹ Every woman is at risk for breast cancer, regardless of her racial/ethnic background. Finding breast cancer early when it is still confined to the breast significantly improves five-year survival rates. For example, 96.0 percent of women diagnosed with a small cancer confined to the breast will be alive five years after their diagnosis compared with only 18.0 percent of women who are diagnosed when the tumor has spread to other parts of the body.² The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that women ages 40 years and above receive both a mammogram and a clinical breast examination (CBE) annually to improve their chances of finding breast cancer early.

In 2002, nearly 68.0 percent of breast cancers diagnosed in California women were found at an early stage, when cancers are more likely to favorably respond to treatment.³ Despite the successful efforts by organizations such as ACS and the California Department of Health Services to increase the number of women who receive regular breast cancer screening, women of some racial/ethnic groups still disproportionately receive the recommended annual mammograms and clinical breast examinations.^{4, 5}

This report focuses only on mammogram screening rather than screening with both CBE and mammogram due to small sample size. The 2004 California Women's Health Survey

(CWHS) asked women if they had ever had a mammogram, and how long it had been since they had their last mammogram. Respondents who had ever had a mammogram could respond that their last mammogram was within the past one, two, three or five years, or more than five years ago. The survey data is weighted to the 2000 California population by the race/ethnicity and age grouping specific to this report. Women who reported being previously diagnosed with breast cancer ($n = 79$) or had partially completed the survey ($n = 310$) were not included in the analysis. The final analysis is based on 2,380 women ages 40 years and above.

- In 2004, of the California women ages 40 years and above included in the study, 9.7 percent reported never having a mammogram and 14.0 percent reported having their last mammogram more than two years ago.
- 17.3 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander women reported never having a mammogram, compared with 14.2 percent of Hispanic women, 9.6 percent of Black/African American women, and 7.1 percent of White women.
- 14.3 percent of White women, 14.2 percent of Hispanic women, 13.3 percent of Black/African American women, and 12.0 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander women reported having their last mammogram more than two years ago.

Women Aged 40 and Above Who Never or Rarely Receive Routine Mammography, California, 2004

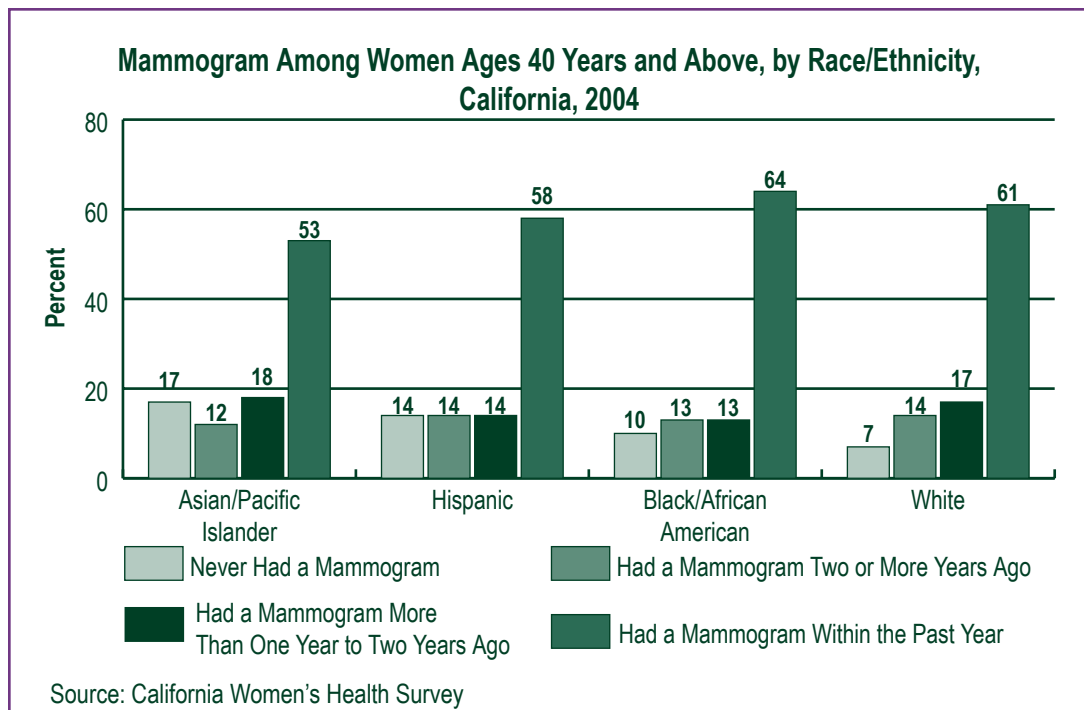
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Cancer Detection Section

Public Health Message:

Both an annual mammogram and clinical breast examination are recommended for women ages 40 years and above to greatly enhance their opportunity for early diagnosis and definitive treatment of breast cancer. Despite the fact that survival is excellent when breast cancer is diagnosed early, it is estimated that nearly 40 percent of California women aged 40 and above do not receive annual mammograms.

Women Aged 40 and Above Who Never or Rarely Receive Routine Mammography, California, 2004

California Department of Health Services
Cancer Detection Section



- 1 American Cancer Society, California Division and Public Health Institute, California Cancer Registry. California Cancer Facts and Figures, 2006. Oakland, CA: American Cancer Society, California Division, September 2005.
- 2 American Cancer Society, California Division and Public Health Institute, California Cancer Registry. California Cancer Facts and Figures, 2006. Oakland, CA: American Cancer Society, California Division, September 2005.
- 3 American Cancer Society, California Division and Public Health Institute, California Cancer Registry. California Cancer Facts and Figures, 2006. Oakland, CA: American Cancer Society, California Division, September 2005.
- 4 Kagawa-Singer M, Pourat N. Asian American and Pacific Islander breast and cervical carcinoma screening rates and Healthy People 2000 objectives. Cancer. 2000;89:3:696-705.
- 5 O'Malley MS, Earp JAL, Hawley ST, Schell MJ, Matthews HF, Mitchell J. The association of race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and physician recommendation for mammography: who gets the message about breast cancer screening? American Journal of Public Health. 2001;91:49-54.

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